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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

21 OCT 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
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GENERAL COUNSEL
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DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: National Military Families Recognition Day

Traditionally, Congress has designated one day during the week of Thanksgiving as "National Military Families Recognition Day." As in previous years, members of the House and Senate have again passed Joint Resolutions to this effect. These Joint Resolutions designate November 21 as "National Military Families Recognition Day" to recognize military families for their important contributions and sacrifices for the good of the nation.

Military families, including families of our National Guard and Reserve components, are the silent partners and heroes in all missions--whether humanitarian assistance, disaster relief or military combat operations. Families face frequent moves, separations, natural disasters, and the constant possibility of deployment of their loved ones. In addition, families face a changed environment in the continued wake of base closures and force realignments. Through it all, military families faithfully support their military member and the military, not for money, recognition or other tangible rewards, but out of love for one another and belief in our Nation. Families have earned, many times over, partnership in the success of the Total Force mission.

I ask that you join the President, the Congress and me in recognizing America's military families. Our families deserve recognition and our appreciation for their strength, unity and patriotism.

William J. Perry

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